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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO.

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Latvian SSR)
SUBJECT Barracks and Airfield at Riga
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1. The barracks on the southeastern perimeter of Riga (56°54'N/24°13'E) Latvian SSR, northeast of the Moscow highway, was called Moscow Barracks by the Soviets. The barracks consisted of a headquarters building with the commander's home, a main school building, a hangar with two aircraft, a workshop with a forge, a residential block, a club building, and a guard house. A large administration building, a school building, a locksmith's shop, and a dwelling house for officers with an attached tower were outside the barracks area, which was fenced-in. *
2. An airfield bordered the barracks area on the southeast. * The field was in poor condition and not in use during the period of observation. No installations were seen. About 12 aircraft were parked on the edge of the field, behind the officers' residence. All planes were covered with tarpaulins. Three aircraft, parked on the northern edge of the field, were used for training. Source observed that the students practiced refueling of the aircraft from drums, starting of the engines, and getting into and out of the planes. No take-offs were made.
3. Work was being done on aircraft engines in the workshop. The main school building had only instruction rooms. A jet plane and a disassembled jet fighter were in one room. A PW said that the disassembled plane was a German type. The plane was 5 to 6 meters long, had short wings, and an oval-shaped air intake in the nose. The air exhaust aperture was believed to be in the tail, which was cut off. The very short elevator assembly was considerably swept-back. A large chart on the wall showed several details of the plane in various positions, and with the pilot in a prone position. Two additional charts bore the German inscription V 1 and V 2. Various aircraft engines, pilot's seats, and bomb models of various types were seen in other instruction rooms.
4. The barracks which was not destroyed was occupied by air force personnel. Soviet sentries said that German troops were quartered in the barracks during the war. The Soviet Air Force soldiers wore golden-bordered light blue epaulets. The students wore a propeller insignia on their epaulets while the students and officers both wore the air force badge on their caps. An estimated 600 to 700 men were quartered in the barracks on the anniversary of the Japanese capitulation,

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when the soldiers assembled in the yard of the barracks. P/s said that the barracks was called Maria-Theresia barracks or Theresien Barracks during the German occupation.

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[REDACTED] Comment. The pinpoint locations of the barracks and airfield installations could not be determined. A basic school for pilots and mechanics is possibly in the barracks.

1 Annex: Layout sketch of Riga Barracks and Airfield.

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Legend to Annex:

- 1 Wooden bridge across Dvina River.
- 2 Floating bridge across Dvina River, is removed when the river carries ice.
- 3 Railroad bridge across Dvina River.
- 4 Destroyed church in the town area.
- 5 Square with monument (Engel Monument ?), called brandy monument by PWs because of three stars on it.
- 6 Railroad station.
- 7 Small church with six steeples, about 10 minutes walking distance from barracks area.
- 8 Three hangars, now market-halls, supply depot during the war.
- 9 Four-story residential block, brick building, about 26 x 80 to 100 meters.
- 10 Headquarters building, about 6 x 10 meters; offices on first floor, residence of commander, ranking as a general, on second floor.
- 11 Main school building, about 6 x 10 meters.
- 12 Club building, about 30 meters square.
- 13 New wooden shed, depot.
- 14 Hangar, about 20 x 40 meters, with two parked aircraft.
- 15 Workshop with forge.
- 16 Guardhouse with entrance.
- 17 Locksmith's shop, outside the fence.
- 18 Kitchen with mess and gate to supply depot, outside the fence.
- 19 School building, about 25 x 80 to 100 meters.
- 20 Dwelling house for officers, with attached tower.
- 21 Airfield.
- 22 Underground bunkers outside the barracks.

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